

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC

Development and Completion of the Fall Exercise of the Eighth

Cde Army

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 October 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 1 and 3 October 1955, large movements of Soviet units were observed in the area north of Arnstadt. On 7 October, intensive air activity of fighter and reconnaissance aircraft and bombers was observed over this area. After 0600 on 8 October, roads and fields in this area were blocked and restricted. Artillery took positions east of Illichleben. After a 50-minute fire preparation, infantry units with armored support advanced toward the northwest. At about noon, combat activities in this area had terminated. On 9 October, rear service vehicles including field kitchens, tank and ammunition trucks followed the units through Illichleben and proceeded northwestward. On 10 October, the area was no longer restricted and the farmers were requested to report maneuver damages.

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2. At about noon on 9 October, 22 artillery pieces were emplaced northeast of the Karlshausen-Arnstadt railroad line, 85-mm AT guns were seen southwest of the railroad line. In the early afternoon of the same day, an infantry unit, which was observed northeast of the Arnstadt-Haarhausen railroad line, approached the line toward the west. A major number of rocket launchers was seen southeast of the line. Three JS-1 tanks and 10 trucks were seen near the Haarhausen-Dietendorf railroad line. The vehicles were headed toward Haarhausen. Intensive air activity was observed over the Arnstadt area.

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3. The following shipments were loaded in Gotha between 10 and 12 October:

10 October. At 2200, 18 to 20 x 85-mm AT guns, 10 boxcars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 28 trucks

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11 October. At 1000, 15 canvas-covered JS-1 tanks, 4 boxcars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 15 trucks. 2 At 1330, 20 x 85-mm AT guns, 40 trucks, 4 repair shop trucks and 11 boxcars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets,

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presumably bound for Schwerin. <sup>1</sup>

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12 October. At noon, 17 T-34/85 tanks and 17 trucks

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4. At 0900 on 11 October, a shipment of 9 T-34/85 tanks, 22 trucks and 3 railroad cars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen in Neudietendorf.

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The following shipments were seen in Erfurt:

12 October. At 1430, 12 x 152-mm gun howitzers, 15 YA-12 prime movers and 28 trucks. <sup>3</sup>At 1530, 8 x 85-mm AA guns, 31 trucks and 8 boxcars, each with 40 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets. <sup>4</sup>

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At 1600, 10 to 12 x 152-mm gun howitzers, 15 to 16 YA-12 prime movers, 25 trucks and 8 to 10 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. <sup>5</sup>13 October. At 0100, 12 x 152-mm gun howitzers, 15 YA-12 prime movers, 25 trucks and 7 boxcars with personnel. <sup>5</sup>At 0130, 12 x 152-mm gun howitzers, 15 YA-12 prime movers, 22 trucks, 2 repair shop trucks and 8 boxcars with soldiers. <sup>5</sup>At 0300, 22 trucks, 4 jeeps, 2 repair shop trucks and 8 boxcars with soldiers. <sup>2</sup>

At 0400, 10 T-34/85 tanks, 2 M-13 rocket launchers, 2 armored scout cars, 14 trucks, 3 repair shop trucks, 3 jeeps, 1 flatcar with sideracks carrying motorcycles and 5 boxcars with personnel.

At 1730, 22 rocket launchers of an undetermined type, 17 trucks, 2 repair shop trucks and 3 boxcars with soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. <sup>2</sup>

5. The following columns entered the Flak Kaserne (8501) in Weimar on 10 and 11 October:

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10 October. At about 1900, 4 x 85-mm AA guns, 7 tractors, 40 trucks and 4 field kitchens from a westerly direction.

11 October. At 1430 6 x 85-mm AT guns, 2 armored scout cars,

2 field kitchens, 20 trucks also from a westerly direction. On 12 October, the Tannenberg Kaserne (8502), the Flak Kaserne, the Iuetzendorf Kaserne (8503) and the Nachrichten Kaserne (8504) in Weimar were occupied to capacity.

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6. Between 0200 and 0400 on 12 October, 85 motor vehicles of a signal unit entered the Barbara Kaserne (8384) in Naumburg from the direction of Jena. <sup>6</sup>

7. The units, which had left the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera between 4 and 6 October, had not yet returned on 9 October. The installation was occupied by an estimated 300 soldiers. <sup>5</sup>

8. a shipment of 2 boxcars and 37 flatcars with a load of 600 tons and a shipment of 20 flatcars with a load of 600 tons left Ohrdruf on 12 October for Muensdorf and Potsdam, respectively. <sup>7</sup>

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9. 2 shipments, one with 2 boxcars and 37 flatcars and a load of 600 tons and the other with 20 flatcars with a load of 600 tons went from Ohrdruf to Muensdorf on 12 October.

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10. At about noon on 11 October, 18 tanks including 15 T-34/85 tanks returned to the Pionier Kaserne (8522) in Weissenfels. The column was accompanied by 2 trucks. Additional trucks returned individually or in groups of 3 to 5 during the afternoon and the following night.

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1. Comment. These shipments may have involved elements of the 3d Gds AT Brig from Rostock, which were unloaded from 8 trains in Poessneck between 1 and 3 October.

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2. Comment. These shipments cannot be explained.

3. Comment. the shipment and the column observed in Weissenfels (Pionier Kaserne) belong to the 17th Gds Tank SP Bgt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

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4. Comment. this was a unit of the 5th Gds AAA Div, which may have participated in the exercise of the Eighth Gds Army.

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5. Comment. These were possibly return shipments of elements of the 308th Arty Brig from Gera which were entrained there on 5 October.

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6. Comment. The corps signal battalion of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps returned.

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7. Comment. Elements of signal units of GSFG presumably participated in the fall exercise of the Eighth Gds Army.

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8. Comment. Observations in the present report supplement previous information on the development and termination of the fall exercise of the Eighth Gds Army. After the assembly of the western group in the area northeast of Arnstadt, combat activities shifted to this area on 8 and 9 October, presumably following the crossing of the Saale river south of Jena which was forced by the eastern group. The maneuver probably terminated in the area south of Erfurt-Gotha on 10 October.

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